

**From:** Fisher, Kori [Kori.Fisher@dhs.gov]  
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**To:** 'adoptionregs@state.gov'  
**Subject:** Public comment

*I have not read the text of any proposed regulation but have some questions and ideas. While I'm for the concept of accrediting international adoption agencies as long as the primary purpose is to protect the interests of the children involved, I would be concerned that accreditation would lead to a monopoly of a few very large agencies which would then, in effect stifle competition between agencies and subject prospective parents to ever-increasing fees and thus discouraging prospective parents in lower income levels. Also, the issue of slowing down the already protracted waiting periods involved. In being limited to using a few very large agencies, a prospective parent faces the possibility of competing for the attention of a limited number of caseworkers. In other words, how to ensure that cases are addressed on a first-come, first served basis. Will the regulation address how agencies serve prospective parents? Is there any proposal to limit the amount an agency can charge for its services or at least require a variable income-based fee system?*

*The regulation should be very strict regarding the status of children available for adoption, as far as the possibility of being cared for by a live birthparent or extended family member. What kind of requirements will the regulation impose on the sources of adoptable children, i.e. orphanages and the standards of care a child must have been receiving in order to be eligible for adoption through an accredited agency? In other words, I would like to see that accredited agencies have an obligation to use a portion of its funds to improve the care and living conditions of orphaned children.*

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*November is National Adoption Month*

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